DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS

● ROUTINE

[redacted]

STATE/INR NMCC/MC DIA CIA/NMIC NIC NSA [redacted] NSC/S SDO NIO CIS PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

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[redacted]

DIST 13 AUGUST 1974

[redacted]

1.5 (c)

1. IN EARLY AUGUST, GENERAL AUGUSTO P I N O C H E T, PRESIDENT OF THE JUNTA, SAID THAT DESPITE CONTINUING PRESSURE TO THE CONTRARY, ALL THE DAWSON ISLAND PRISONERS WILL BE TRIED; HOWEVER, NONE WILL BE SENTENCED TO DEATH. HE SAID THAT NONE OF THE PRISONERS WILL BE GIVEN ANY KIND OF SPECIAL TREATMENT OR RELEASED INTO EXILE UNTIL AFTER COMPLETION OF THEIR TRIALS.

2. THE PRISONERS WILL BE TRIED ON NON-POLITICAL CHARGES, [redacted] BASED ON ACTS OF MALFEASANCE COMMITTED IN TIME OF PEACE. [redacted]

COMMENT: A DETAILED STUDY PRESENTED TO THE JUNTA INDICATED THAT THE ONLY SOLID CASE FOR WARTIME CHARGES WAS AGAINST DANIEL

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OF GOVERNMENT IS TO CONTINUE THE CURRENT PRACTICE OF ONGOING RELEASES OF PRISONERS AGAINST WHOM THERE IS LITTLE OR NO EVIDENCE WHICH COULD RESULT IN SOLID INDICTMENTS AND CONVICTIONS.

6. [redacted] COMMENT: THE DAILY NEWSPAPER "LA TERCERA" OF 13 AUGUST QUOTES PINOCHET AS TELLING AN ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTER THAT THERE WILL BE NO NEW EXECUTIONS, AND THE 28 TO 38 MEMBERS OF THE ARMY HAVE BEEN SEVERELY PUNISHED FOR ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS. [redacted]

7. [redacted]

1.5 (c)

V E R G A R A. FORMER UNDERSECRETARY OF INTERIOR, AND THAT IT WOULD THEREFORE BE BETTER TO TRY ALL THE PRISONERS UNDER PEACETIME PROVISIONS.)

3. MANY OF THE CHARGES AGAINST THE PRISONERS WILL BE RELATIVELY MINOR, CARRYING A THREE-YEAR PENALTY. PINOCHET ADDED THAT SINCE THE CHILEAN PENAL CODE HAS A PROVISION FOR CONDITIONAL LIBERTY AFTER SERVING HALF OF A PRISON TERM. MANY OF THE DAWSON ISLAND PRISONERS WILL BE RELEASED AFTER SENTENCING BECAUSE THEY WILL HAVE COMPLETED HALF OF THE GIVEN PRISON TERMS.

4. PINOCHET SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF STRONG CRITICISM IN THE ARMED FORCES AND SOME CIVILIAN SECTORS, MAINLY CONNECTED WITH THE NATIONAL PARTY (PN), OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO COMMUTE FOUR DEATH PENALTIES RECENTLY METED OUT DURING THE AIR FORCE TRIALS. HE ADDED THAT CONTRARY TO THE OPINION EXPRESSED IN THESE SECTORS, THE JUNTA WAS NOT GIVING IN TO INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION. RATHER, THE JUNTA'S DECISION WAS GUIDED BY THE OVERALL QUESTION OF WHAT IS BEST FOR CHILE IN THE LONG TERM.

5. PINOCHET SAID THAT DESPITE THE RECENT SPATE OF RUMORS THAT THE JUNTA WILL DECLARE SOME FORM OF AMNESTY ON 11 SEPTEMBER, THERE HAS BEEN NO DISCUSSION OF SUCH A PLAN TO DATE. THE POLICY